

DEC 07 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Douglas Reynolds, et al.

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING A CUSTOM RING IN
CONNECTION WITH A CALL

App. No.: 10/774,351

Filed: February 6, 2004

Examiner: Gerald Gauthier

Group Art Unit: 2645

Atty. Dkt. No.: 1033-LB1011

Customer No.: 34456

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

1. Our residences, post office addresses, and citizenship are as stated below next to our names.
2. We believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.
3. The conception of the subject matter which is claimed within the originally filed claims (herein "the Original Claims") and for which a patent is sought occurred in the United States of America before August 7, 2003, which is the filing date of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2005/0031106A1. A copy of invention disclosures is attached as Exhibit A.
4. At least one of the invention disclosures corresponding to the above-identified patent application was received by SBC Knowledge Ventures, Inc., on or about August 8, 2003.
5. A patent committee reviewed disclosures corresponding to the above-identified patent application and decided to file a patent application, which was subsequently prepared and filed as the above-identified patent application, on or about September 30, 2003.
6. A file corresponding to the above-identified patent application was docketed by Toler, Larson & Abel L.L.P. on or about October 14, 2003. A copy of docketing notation is attached as Exhibit B.
7. A conference between Mr. Russell White of Toler, Larson & Abel and Mr. Douglas Reynolds regarding the disclosures and preparation of the above-identified patent


PATENT

application occurred on or about January 12, 2004. A copy of a time listing for the patent application is attached as Exhibit C.


8. A draft of the above-identified patent application including the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought was provided to the inventors via an email dated January 15, 2004. A copy of this email is attached as Exhibit D.
9. A follow-up email regarding the draft recited in Paragraph 8 was provided to the inventors via an email dated January 26, 2004. A copy of this email is attached as Exhibit E.
10. Comments regarding the draft recited in Paragraph 8 were provided from Mr. Douglas Reynolds to a legal representative of the Assignee on February 4, 2004. A copy of this email is attached as Exhibit F.
11. The above-identified patent application was filed two days later on February 6, 2004.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

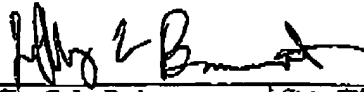
Name of First Inventor:

Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Douglas F.		Reynolds	
Inventor's Signature		Date	12/7/05
Residence	City: Austin	State: TX	Country: US
Post Office Address	8701 Bluestone Cove, #5206		
City: Austin	State: TX	ZIP: 78759	Country: US

Name of Second Inventor:

Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Aaron		Banger	
Inventor's Signature		Date	12/7/05
Residence	City: Austin	State: TX	Country: US
Post Office Address	8518 Cabell Drive, #39		
City: Austin	State: TX	ZIP: 78729	Country: US

PATENT

Name of Third Inventor:	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname
Jeffrey L.	Brandt
Inventor's Signature	Date
	12/7/05
Residence	City: Cedar Park State: TX Country: US Citizenship: US
Post Office Address	801 Forest Trail
City: Cedar Park	State: TX ZIP: 78613 Country: US

DEC. 7. 2005 11:31AM

TL&A 512-327-5452

NO. 4286 pP. 16/33

EXHIBIT A

12/5/2005 1033-LB1011 CFR 1 131 Declaration doc

US App No: 10/774,351

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Disclosure No.: <u>LB1011</u>	Date: <u>12/7/05</u>
Patent Committee Action	

Invention Disclosure Form

1. What can we call your invention? (10 words or less)

Method for VoIP Custom Ringing and Identification

2. Who do you think contributed to the conception of your invention?

List yourself and the people who may be inventors. (Use additional sheets if necessary)

Doug Reynolds
Name Printed

Current SBC Employee? ☒ Yes ☐ No

512-372-5799
Telephone Number

[Signature]
Signature

[Date]
Date

SBC Technology Resources, Inc. Austin, TX
Business Unit
512-372-5791
Fax Number

Aaron Bangor
Name Printed

Current SBC Employee? ☒ Yes ☐ No

512-372-5732
Telephone Number

[Signature]
Signature

[Date]
Date

SBC Technology Resources, Inc. Austin, TX
Business Unit
512-372-5791
Fax Number

Jeff Brandt
Name Printed

Current SBC Employee? ☒ Yes ☐ No

512-372-5732
Telephone Number

[Signature]
Signature

[Date]
Date

SBC Technology Resources, Inc. Austin, TX
Business Unit
512-372-5791
Fax Number

- a Who will be the point of contact for further information?

Name: Doug Reynolds

Telephone: 512-372-5799

4. What is your invention? Please attach additional sheets (as much as you feel is necessary) to describe your concepts - flow charts and/or block diagrams can be very helpful. In preparing this description, try to address the following:

- a) What have others done in the past (or, do now) - i.e. what is the problem that was solved?
- b) What makes your invention new or different from what was done before - i.e. what is your solution?
- c) What makes your invention better than what was done before?

Voice over IP (VoIP) allows for many ways to accomplish traditional telephony operations in new and interesting ways. One of the most traditional aspects of telephony has been the concept of the ringing telephone. In the past the telephone ring was primarily limited by technology. With current technology, as many wireless handset manufacturers have shown, this is no longer the case. Emerging technologies could allow for rethinking of traditional telephony to improve on existing traditional interfaces.

This method would allow for a custom ring tone to be sent to a called party communication device alongside of or included within the VoIP packets themselves. The caller would have the ability to pre-program their VoIP CPE to send a customized ring tones when calling other, technically capable, parties. They also would have the ability to record short identification messages prior to making the call to be played in place of traditional ring tones. The called party would hear this customized ring tone or verbal message in place of their default ringing option. The ring tone would be any standardized sound file (e.g. mp3, WAV, etc.) and thus could be anything from music to a verbal message. The quality and clarity of the sound file could also be adjusted to reduce bandwidth issues based on network conditions. In addition called parties would have the option of disabling the option on their CPE to reduce unwanted or annoying custom ring tones with the additional ability to block custom ring tone from specific callers.

This method would allow for a greater flexibility in caller identification as well as expanded personal preferences for telephony options. Callers would have the ability to customize the caller identification via ring tone if the caller is not calling from their normally identified telephone line. An additional benefit would be that business could customize and brand ring tones to both identify and increase brand recognition. Overall this method would be a competitive advantage that offers solutions to a variety of telephony issues.

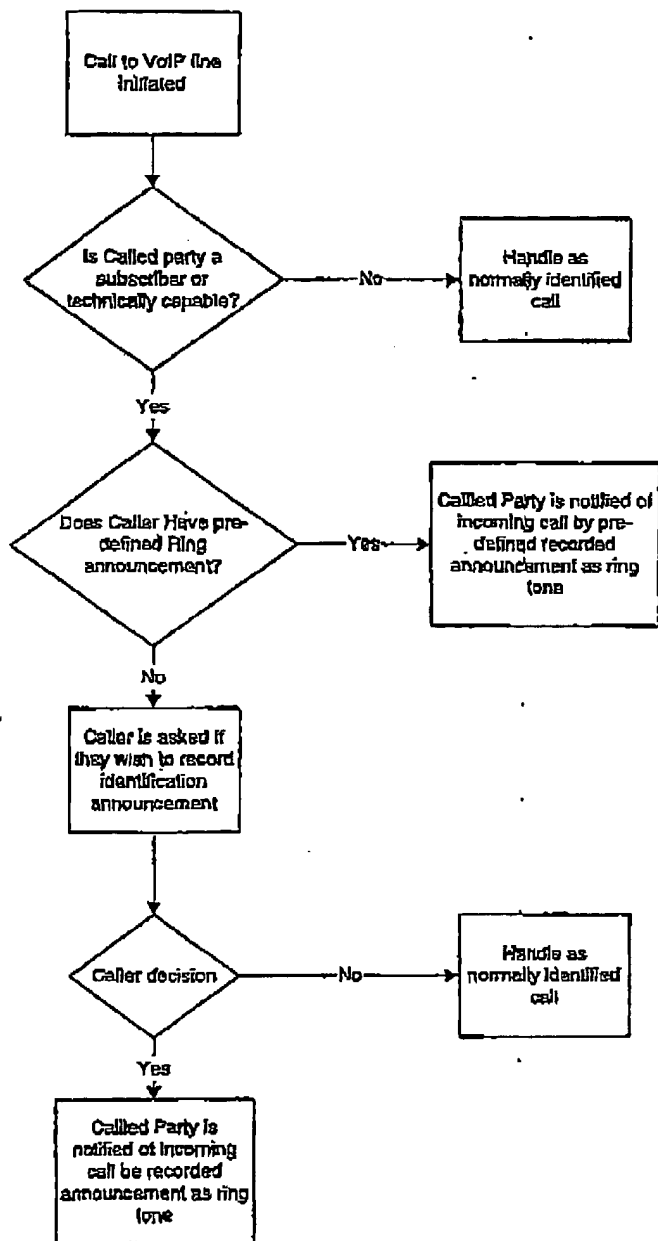
5. Please complete the attached evaluation matrix.
6. Two witnesses (who are not inventors) must attest to the fact that they read and understand the attached description. The Witnesses must sign below and initial and date each page of the attached description.

Benjamin K...
Witness Name

Meredith McQuilkin
Witness Name

[Signature] [Redacted]
Signature Date

[Signature] [Redacted]
Signature Date



IP Evaluation Matrix

VALUE	0	1	2	3	4	5	SCORE (0-5)
Revenue Projection of Related Product Revenues or cost savings associated with implementation	<\$1M	>\$1	>\$20	>\$50	>\$80	>\$100M	3
Lifecycle of Product	<2 yrs	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	>5 yrs	5
How does the invention relate to any competitive alternatives?	Many viable alternatives				X	Clearly better or the only way	4
How new is this to the Industry?	Many implementations elsewhere					None elsewhere	5
What is the competitive weight?	Minor impact					Critical differentiator	3
What is the geographic scope?	Local					National/International	5
						TOTAL SCORE	25
Has this been or is this being implemented by SBC? If so, what is the name of the product or service and when did we/will we roll it out?	No.						
Are there other companies that could benefit from licensing this invention? If so, who?	Yes, Any provider using VoIP						
Has this been or is this invention being submitted as a Standard? If so, to which Standard?	No.						

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Disclosure No.: <u>LB1012</u>	Date: <u>12/7/05</u>
Patent Committee Action	

Invention Disclosure Form

1. What can we call your invention? (10 words or less)

Method for Allowing Custom Ring Notification for Voice over IP Telephony.

2. Who do you think contributed to the conception of your invention?

List yourself and the people who may be inventors. (Use additional sheets if necessary)

Doug Reynolds

Name Printed

Current SBC Employee? ☒ Yes ☐ No

512-372-5799

Telephone Number

[Signature]

Signature

[Date]

Date

SBC Technology Resources, Inc. Austin, TX

Business Unit

512-372-5791

Fax Number

Aaron Bangor

Name Printed

Current SBC Employee? ☒ Yes ☐ No

512-372-5732

Telephone Number

[Signature]

Signature

[Date]

Date

SBC Technology Resources, Inc. Austin, TX

Business Unit

512-372-5791

Fax Number

[Name]

Name Printed

Current SBC Employee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

[Telephone Number]

Telephone Number

[Signature]

Signature

[Date]

Date

[Business Unit]

Business Unit

[Fax Number]

Fax Number

3. Who will be the point of contact for further information?

Name: Doug Reynolds

Telephone: 512-372-5799

4. What is your invention? Please attach additional sheets (as much as you feel is necessary) to describe your concepts - flow charts and/or block diagrams can be very helpful. In preparing this description, try to address the following:

- a) What have others done in the past (or, do now) - i.e. what is the problem that was solved?
- b) What makes your invention new or different from what was done before - i.e. what is your solution?
- c) What makes your invention better than what was done before?

Current telephone ring options are either predefined by equipment manufacturers or by switch based methods with few available options. The ability to customize ringing tones or notifications is primarily available with Wireless handsets at this time. With Voice over IP (VoIP) this limitation may no longer be the case. VoIP would allow for greater flexibility on assigning ringing tones as well as giving new options for incoming call notification.

This method would allow for IP telephony CPE (whether fixed, wireless, or PC based) to customize the ringing sound for the telephone. The ringing sound could be recorded at the device itself via microphones, or downloaded from remote sites. The ringing sounds would be stored as a standard electronic sound file (WAV, MP3, etc.) and need not be limited to traditional ringing tones. Voice, music, or any other identifying sound could be used. In addition to using a customized ring the method would allow for multiple ring sounds/files to be assigned to a single telephony device based on user defined incoming call characteristics. Differing ringing sounds could be assigned to distinguish telephone user, incoming caller (based on CID information) call line, member(s) of a hunt group, or any other user specified incoming call attributes. The sounds could be recorded/downloaded and conditions for their use could be specified via a built in interface (Graphical or IVR) or remotely via a software client. In addition multiple sound files could be used to identify calls that satisfy several conditions. An example of this would be that all incoming calls ring with the assigned user's name as well as the incoming call type.

This Method would be of great value in small-to-large business settings where multiple ringing phones could be difficult to distinguish. By adding this flexibility the method would allow for an easily customizable ability to distinguish between separate ringing telephones as well as between individual calls and call types. This would greatly expand the value of current custom ringing options as well as offering new capabilities customers.

5. Please complete the attached evaluation matrix.
6. Two witnesses (who are not inventors) must attest to the fact that they read and understand the attached description. The Witnesses must sign below and initial and date each page of the attached description.

JEFFREY L. BRANDT

Witness Name

Signature

Date

Gregory Edwards

Witness Name

Signature

Date

IP Evaluation Matrix

VALUE	0	1	2	3	4	5	SCORE (0-5)
Revenue Projection of Related Product Revenue or cost savings associated with implementation	<\$1M	>\$1	>\$20	>\$50	>\$80	>\$100M	3
Lifecycle of Product	<2 yrs	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	>5 yrs	5
How does the invention relate to any competitive alternatives?	Many viable alternatives				X	Clearly better or the only way	4
How new is this to the Industry?	Many implementations elsewhere			X		None elsewhere	3
What is the competitive weight?	Minor impact					Critical differentiator	5
What is the geographic scope?	Local					National/International	5
						TOTAL SCORE	25

Has this been or is this being implemented by SBC? If so, what is the name of the product or service and when did we will we roll it out?	No.
Are there other companies that could benefit from licensing this invention? If so, who?	Yes, Telephone Manufacturers and IP telephony developers.
Has this been or is this invention being submitted as a Standard? If so, to which Standard?	No.

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NO. 4286
NO. 208

P. 24/33
P. 13

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EXHIBIT B

1033-LB1011 CTR 1 131 Declaration dec

US App No: 10/774,351

Calds, et al.

IR

DOCKET NO.

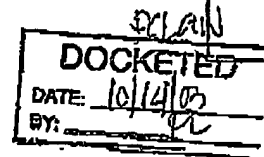
1033-LB1011

ID: _____ RCE: _____

ALLOWANCE: _____ ISSUE FEE PAID: _____

ISSUE DATE: _____

1033-LB1011



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NO. 4286 P. 26/33
NO. 268 P. 15

PATENT

EXHIBIT C

DEC. 7. 2005 11:33AM

TL&A 512-327-5452

NO. 4286 P. 27/33
NO. 268 P. 16

Dec 5/2005

Toler, Larson & Abel, LLP

Time Listing

To Feb 1/2006

Date	Matter	Client	Matter Description	Law Type	Hours
Entry#			Task Explanation		

Lawyer: RMW - Russell White

Jan 14/2004	1033-LB1011	SBC Laboratories, Inc.	Method for VoIP Custom Ringing and Identification	IP	
12634			Conference with Doug Reynolds to discuss disclosure	Begin	5.00
Jan 13/2004	1033-LB1011	SBC Laboratories, Inc.	Preparing draft application and figures		
12715			Method for VoIP Custom Ringing and Identification	IP	
			Continue preparing draft of application and figures		5.50
Jan 14/2004	1033-LB1011	SBC Laboratories, Inc.	Method for VoIP Custom Ringing and Identification		
12720			Complete first draft of application and figures		5.00
Jan 15/2004	1033-LB1011	SBC Laboratories, Inc.	Method for VoIP Custom Ringing and Identification		
12767			Complete final review of draft application; provide copy of draft application and figures to inventors	IP	5.00

DEC. 7. 2005 11:33AM TL&A 512-327-5452

NO. 4286 P. 28/33
NO. 268 P. 1/

PATENT

EXHIBIT D

Pia Lorenzana

From: Pia Lorenzana [plorenzana@iplegalservices.com] on behalf of Pia Lorenzana
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2004 5:45 PM
To: 'doug.reynolds@sbc.com'; 'aaron_bangor@labs.sbc.com'; 'jeff_brandt@labs.sbc.com'
Cc: Russell White
Subject: LB1011

Our File No.: 1033-LB1011

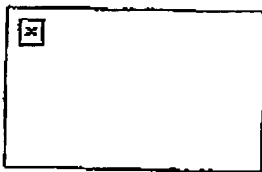
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING A CUSTOM RING IN CONNECTION WITH A CALL

Dear Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Bangor & Mr. Brandt,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the DRAFT Patent Application for your review, along with the drawings (in .pdf format). Our detailed instructions are also enclosed for your reference.

Thank you for allowing us to assist you with this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Pia R. Lorenzana
Assistant to Russell W. White, Esq.
plorenzana@iplegalservices.com



Toler Larson & Abel LLP
5000 Plaza on the Lake, Suite 265
Austin, Texas 78746
Ph. 512-327-5516
Fax 512-327-5452
www.tla-law.com

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NO. 4286 P. 30/33
NO. 268 P. 19

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EXHIBIT E

1033-LB1011 CFR 1131 Declaration.doc

U.S. App No: 10/774,351

Grace Adame

From: Grace Adame [gadame@iplegalservices.com]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2004 12:20 PM
To: 'doug.reynolds@sbc.com'; 'aaron_bangor@labs.sbc.com'; 'jeff_brandt@labs.sbc.com'
Subject: LB1011 and LB1013

Dear Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Bangor, and Mr. Brandt,

I am just following up on the status of the above mentioned applications. Please feel free to contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Thank you,

Grace Adame
Assistant to Jeffrey G. Toler, Esq.

Grace Adame
Administrator
gadame@iplegalservices.com



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NO. 4286 P. 32/33
NO. 268 P. 21

PATENT

EXHIBIT F

1033-LB1011 CFR 1131 Declaration.doc

US App No: 10/774,351

Grace Adame

From: REYNOLDS, DOUGLAS F (SBCSI) [dr9873@sbc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2004 11:51 AM
To: 'Grace Adame'
Subject: RE: LB1011 and LB1013

Grace,

Sorry for the delay in getting these to you.

Here are the slightly revised documents.

Thanks,

Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: Grace Adame [mailto:gadame@iplegalservices.com]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2004 12:20 PM
To: REYNOLDS, DOUGLAS F (SBCSI); BANGOR, AARON (SBCLABS); BRANDT, JEFF (SBCLABS)
Subject: LB1011 and LB1013

Dear Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Bangor, and Mr. Brandt,

I am just following up on the status of the above mentioned applications. Please feel free to contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Thank you,

Grace Adame
Assistant to Jeffrey G. Toler, Esq.

Grace Adame
Administrator
gadame@iplegalservices.com



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